

San Antonio, TX - Congressman Charles Gonzalez issued the following statement celebrating Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday commemorating the 1862 Battle of Puebla where Mexicans fought off the French Army. This year, the Cinco de Mayo holiday falls in the wake of Tuesday's passage of HR 347, legislation that specifically recognizes the significance of the holiday.

"The longing for independence from an oppressive foreign government is a sentiment shared and celebrated by the people of many countries. I'm honored that this week, Congress made an effort to recognize this important day in Mexico's war for independence by passing HR 347," said Gonzalez.

"While Cinco de Mayo symbolizes unity and patriotism for people of Mexican heritage, the date also holds special significance because it reminds us that people of all cultures and backgrounds are worthy of respect, freedom, and liberty," said Gonzalez.

"From serving our country with great bravery and valor in uniform, to the rich cultural heritage they've brought to our country, Mexican-Americans have contributed greatly to our nation's rich history. I am proud to recognize this day as an opportunity to encourage all Americans to join me in recognizing these great contributions," he added.

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